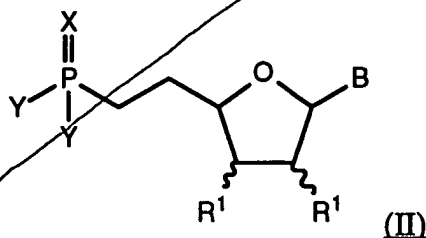


In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

7. (twice amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R¹ at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether;

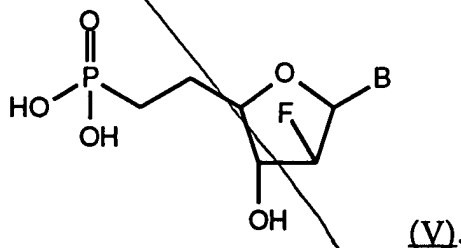
R¹ at the 3'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂, or SR² wherein each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

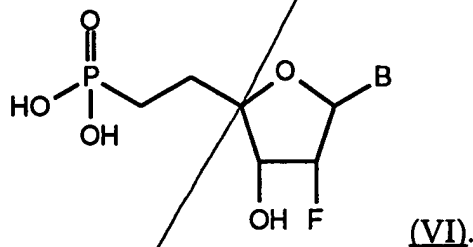
X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur[;

with the proviso that when X is oxygen and each Y is OH, R¹ at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and R¹ at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl, then B is not guanine, thymine, cytosine, uracil or adenine and when R¹ at the 2'-position is hydrogen, then B is not 5-fluorouracil].

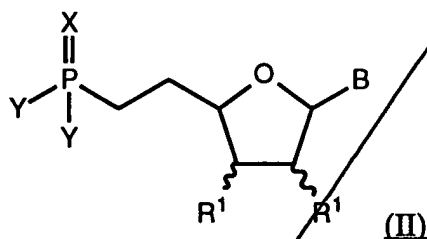
10. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula (V):



14. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula (VI):



20. (twice amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful for treatment of a viral infection [or malignant condition] which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula (II)



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R¹ at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether;

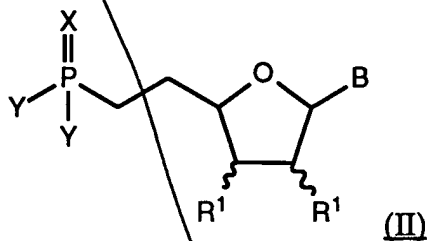
R¹ at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂[,] or SR² wherein each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

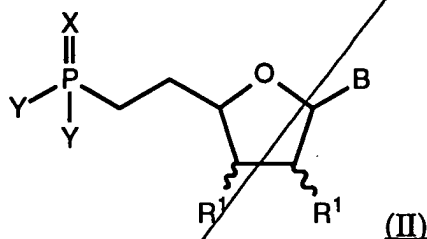
each R^1 is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently $[OR^2]$, $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur.

Cancel claim 39.

40. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

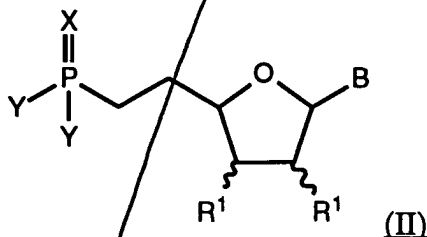
[each] R^1 at the 3'-position is [hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether; [and]

R^1 at the 2'-position is hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently OR^2 , $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

41. (amended) A compound of formula (II):

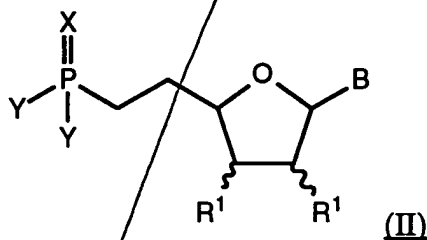


and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is 5-iodouracil, thymine, guanine, 8-hydroxy- N^6 -methyladenine, aziridinylicytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine;

[each] R^1 at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether; [and] R^1 at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl; each Y is independently OR^2 , $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is [independently] hydrogen; and X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

42. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is N^2 -isobutyrylguanine, N^4 -benzoylcytosine, [N^6 -benzoyladenine] or N^3 -benzylthymine;

[each] R^1 at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and R^1 at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR^2 , $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

Please add the following new claims.

--43. The compound of claim 38 wherein X is oxygen and R^2 is hydrogen.

B⁷

44. The compound of claim 43 wherein B is guanine, adenine, cytosine, uracil, 5-fluorouracil, 5-iodouracil, thymine, 8-hydroxy- N^6 -methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine.

45. The compound of claim 40 wherein X is oxygen.